

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 22-28 are pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner first rejected Claims 1-6 and 8-10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,155), and further in view of Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,005).

The Examiner did object to Claims 22-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but did indicate that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

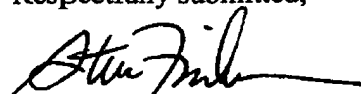
In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants herein cancel Claim 1 and incorporate the subject matter thereof in amended Claim 22 which has now been recast in independent form. Likewise, Applicants herein cancel each of independent Claims 2-6 and incorporate the subject matter thereof in respective amended Claims 23-27 which are now recast in independent form. Furthermore, Applicants herein cancel Claim 9 and incorporate the subject matter thereof in amended Claim 28 which has now been recast in independent form.

In light of the cancellation of Claim 6, the dependency of Claim 8 has been corrected accordingly. Furthermore, in light of the cancellation of Claim 9, the dependency of Claim 10 has been corrected accordingly

In view of the foregoing remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition

of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Fischman
Registration No. 34,594

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

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